

12/21/81
Cable Address: ANTIDEFAME
ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE
OF B'NAI B'RITH

823 United Nations Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10017

December 21, 1981
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

Ambassador Lucio Garcia del Solar

Embassy of Argentina

1600 New Hampshire Ave., N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20009

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date: Declassify on: Reason:

Dear Ambassador Garcia del Solar:

In reviewing the files of various individuals now detained in Argentine jails, I was particularly taken by the plight of a husband and wife, one in Rawson and the other in Villa de Devoto Prison. As I reviewed their files, I concluded that if Argentine government officials were to take a fresh look at their cases they might decide to release them at this time. Mindful of your extremely important intervention on behalf of Mario Jaime Zareceansky, I am turning to you for assistance in this matter.

The couple are Isidoro Gelstein and his wife, Emilia Baretio de Gelstein. According to the information we have, both were detained on October 3, 1975 in Buenos Aires and were sentenced, in 1980, to 12 year terms in prison. We do not have full details of the charges of which they were convicted, however, we know that their legal representation was far from adequate. During the course of the trial the judge was changed four times. Two lawyers whom they retained, on a fee basis, rendered no services, although they took their fees. The lawyer who represented them in the last stage of the trial never visited the prisoners in jail and could not, therefore, adequately represent them. Neither did that lawyer take the case to the Supreme Court as promised.

Your personal intervention in these cases will be most appreciated. Isidoro's brother, who lives in the United States, would sponsor him and Emilia as immigrants to this country in the event that the government of Argentina were to condition their release on their leaving Argentina.

Their release at this time would be in consonance with the spirit of Christmas and the promise of hope which the New Year always brings.

My best wishes to you and yours for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Morton M. Rosenthal

MMR:be

cc: Dr. Lazaro Gelstein

Stephen Tallackson

Lisa Skolnick

James Allitto - US Embassy, Buenos Aires

Sheila Kaye O'Connell - State

Robert Snyder - State

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